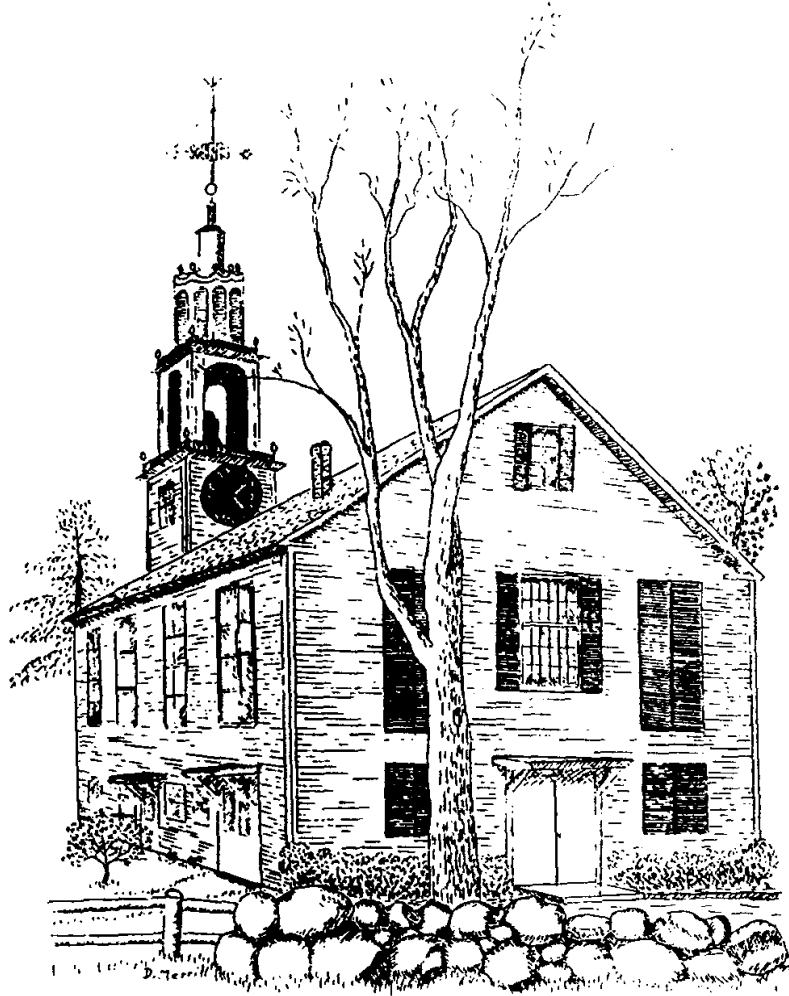


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

July 12, 2015



Doris Merrill

ALL ARE WELCOME

*“Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God.
Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips,
and offer God today your love and your service.”*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

July 12, 2015 Proper 10

Welcome Visitors!

As members of the United Church of Christ we say: "No matter **who** you are or **where** you are on life's journey, **you** are welcome here! We mean it!"

Please introduce yourself to an usher and come meet Pastor Deborah.

Feel free to join us for refreshments in Currier Hall immediately following the service.

If you would like information about our church or would like to be added to our mailing list, please fill out a bright yellow "How May We Serve You"/ "Communication Options" card located in the pews and at the back of the Sanctuary. We also have cards available in the church office.

Thank you for worshiping with us. We are honored to have you with us today.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 23

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Thank God for every spiritual blessing.

All: May the glory of God be known in this place!

One: Lift up your heads and your hearts to God.

All: We have come to hear the Word of truth and compassion.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Holy Creating God, speak to us a word of truth and lead us away from falsehood.

Touch us with healing grace that allows us to admit our woundedness and accept the comfort you offer. Let your Spirit move among us so we may recognize your presence in one another and in our own lives. May our response to you be faithful and our praise genuine. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #759 – **Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"I'm Gonna Sing"

I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing (x2)

I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

In our thanks, these gifts we bring, for you give us everything. Teach us how to follow you, in all we say, and all we do. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Handy

Followed by THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen. (Children may now go onto their classes.)

WE CONSIDER ALL THE WAYS THAT WE STEWARD

HISTORICAL FUN FACT – On Matthew Thornton, by Nancy Heywood and Janet Wetherbee

*HYMN NO. 438

“It is Well with My Soul”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Psalm 148

(O.T. p. 645-646)

GOSPEL

Mark 6:14-29

(N.T. p. 41-42)

SERMON

“Talking About Tough Stuff” or “Use Your Words”

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The earth belongs to God, and all that is in it. The world is God’s creation, and so are we. All that we have is from the gifts of God, meant as a blessing for all to share. In these moments, we recognize our responsibility to manage these resources for the redemption of all God’s people. Let us give with care.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

With joyous praise and dancing spirits, we dedicate this offering, acknowledging our covenant responsibility to share your word and love all your people. In gratitude for the gospel of salvation, we pledge our first loyalty and highest faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received. Help us now to live according to the best we know, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

WE ARE SENT OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

*HYMN NO. 423

“Great is Your Faithfulness”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

AFFILIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CE DIRECTOR

Members of the Congregation

Brian Williams and Sarah Keller

Brian Williams

Ken Gould, Dee Deranian

Shirley Dickason, Joe Weaver, Michael Bryan

David and Lorie McGrath

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Rev. Chester R. Ham

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Lindsey Roman

Heidi Carrington Heath

First Parish Congregational Church General Announcements

July 12, 2015 Proper 10

First Parish Congregational MISSION STATEMENT: This is who we are!

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

A Taste of First Parish: Interested in becoming a member? Interested in learning more about First Parish? For potential new members, as well as folks who have been here a month, a year, a decade: please come to our gathering: "A Taste of First Parish: History, Polity, Activity" **TODAY at 10:30 in classroom A/B.** Everyone is invited to come hear about First Parish: its History; its beliefs; how to get involved. This event includes an exciting tour! Bring your coffee!

Vacation Church School: Vacation Church School is back at First Parish Congregational Church for kids from K-8th grade! This year's theme is "The Incredible Quest". We will learn about Bible characters who faced amazing challenges. Vacation Church School runs from **Monday, July 20-Friday, July 24 from 9:00am-12:00pm.** No registration fee required.



NHMS Clean-Up

NH Motor Speedway Clean-Up Day: On **Saturday, July 18** First Parish members and friends will be at NH Motor Speedway in Loudon for a Clean-Up Day Fundraiser and we are still looking for volunteers! Spend the afternoon in the company of our faith family while helping to keep this popular NH location looking clean and earning money for our church while doing so. Please contact Ed or Laura Sullivan for more info. Hope to see you there!

"Four Agreements" Discussion: There will be a "Four Agreements" discussion on **Sunday, July 26 at 10:30 in A/B.** If you cannot make this date and time, please see Pastor Deborah. Since we will be having Adult Bible Wonder/Study Gathering on Tuesday evenings in the fall, maybe we ought to meet on a Tuesday evening to discuss? Let Pastor Deborah know what you would like to do!



Continental Breakfast

Best Breakfast Continental: Best Breakfast will be Best Breakfast Continental for the summer season. \$5.00 per ticket gets you muffins, bagels, donuts, hard-boiled eggs, yogurt, fruit salad, toast, English muffins, coffee, and three kinds of juice! We look forward to seeing you there!

Christian Ed: Church School for K-5 meets in John today. We will be learning about what it means to be Adopted into God's family through Paul's letter to the Ephesians. All are welcome!



Teen Summer Reading: Calling all youth who enjoy reading- registration for the Teen Summer Read Challenge is open at the Derry Public Library. The Summer Reading Challenge runs now through August 13, with a chance to read as many books as you can for fun and prizes. Kids can pick up a reading log at the Information Desk. The Challenge is open to ages 12-18; rising sixth graders may attend. Summer Reading Programs include Unmasking Old Favorites Cooking Club, Heroes vs. Villains Writers Group, Everyday Hero Club, Superhero Movie Making Club, Superhero Boot Camp, Paint Along Party, Scavenger Hunt and End of Summer Party. For questions, contact Erin Robinson at 432-6140 or erinr@derrypl.org.

Scriptures – July 12

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Mark 6.14-29

¹⁴ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' ¹⁵But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' ²³And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.